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Maywood  
Cats + Birds

FEWER CATS  
MORE BIRDS

# THE CAT

Issued by the  
**MAYWOOD BIRD CLUB**  
MAYWOOD, ILLINOIS  
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Objects: The increase and protection of our wild birds and the stimulation of interest in bird life.  
Affiliated with The National Association of Audubon Societies and the Illinois Audubon Society.

MORE BIRDS  
MORE FOOD

Help remove the cat menace to bird life and thus save from needless destruction food products valued at more than \$100,000,000

## THE CAT

By Roy M. Langdon  
Secretary Maywood Bird Club

Wherever civilized man has gone, he has taken the cat with him. He has plowed, cultivated, and peopled wilderness after wilderness, until now the wild birds and beasts are deprived of the waste places and are obliged to associate more or less closely with man. The protection and care of man have been advantageous to the cat, enabling it to increase in great numbers in all parts of the world to the hurt of small wild life. It has therefore become necessary for us to establish the attitude of modern civilization toward one of its fruits.

Unlike all other domesticated animals the cat has retained its wild inclinations to roam far and wide and to seek the blood of other creatures for its subsistence. If carefully observed, night and day, the best fed house cat will be caught in the act of killing birds whether it eats them or not—it is its instinct to do so, and the cat is not to be despised for obeying the impulse which nature has taught it to obey in its struggle for existence. The fault is not with the cat but with man, the arch-mediator with the balance of nature. The disturbances he causes often grow to such proportions that he is sooner or later obliged to cast aside his prejudices and devise ways and means for rectifying his blind blunders. Sometimes, alas, it is too late. The time is now at hand to consider the cat—its hour has struck.

Let us not be afraid of the truth; let us face the facts without prejudice and do what is best for the general welfare. The cat has become a serious problem in its relation to public health and to public wealth.

## THE CAT AND PUBLIC HEALTH

In regard to the cat and public health, a note, appended to an article by Mrs. Alice Hall Walter, of the school department of the Audubon Societies, in *Bird-Lore* for January-February, 1915, reads, "It has been definitely proved that cats become infected with trichina, from eating rats and mice; that they may become tuberculous; that they are carriers of diphtheria, and that they are subject to tapeworms and various intestinal and cutaneous diseases. Cats have been known to be infected with whooping cough, ringworm, mange and anthrax, while they are suspected to be carriers of scarlet fever, smallpox, the plague and possibly infantile paralysis (arterio poliomyelitis). More work needs to be done on this subject of cats as disease-carriers, but already there is sufficient evidence to be found in scientific and medical journals, not only to put people in general on their guard, but also to convince thoughtful-minded citizens that some effective precaution needs to be taken to prevent a too rapid increase in the number of domesticated cats both in the country and about towns and cities." Mr. Ernest Harold Baynes, in *Wild Bird Guests*, says, "The writer is inclined to believe that the fondling of cats by children may be the source of many of the seemingly mysterious cases of illness where the little patients 'have not been exposed' to the diseases from which they suffer." Surely it behooves us to think thrice before we give these objects of affection the freedom of our homes when they have roamed we know not where. We should exercise reasonable precautions with the cats that are parts of our households. Stray cats should not be tolerated.

## THE CAT AND PUBLIC WEALTH

The wide extension of nature study, especially bird lore, also has revealed innocent looking, purring kitty to be a mischief maker of far-reaching consequences, through no fault of her own. This mischief touches the pocket book of every one of us, through damage to crops and vegetation by insects and noxious weeds—cats kill the birds that check the hosts that destroy the products that sustain man on this earth.

Based upon reports of the Bureau of Statistics of the Department of Agriculture and upon census figures, C. L. Marlatt, then Assistant Entomologist, Bureau of Entomology, United States Department of Agriculture, estimated in 1904 the amount of annual loss inflicted upon cereals and animal products at \$375,000,000; upon hay, cotton, tobacco, truck crops, sugars, fruits, and miscellaneous crops at \$209,100,000; upon products in storage at \$100,000,000; and upon farm forests and natural forests and forest products at \$111,000,000; or a total annual loss, due to the depredations of insects, of \$795,100,000. The United States Department of Agriculture recently estimated that weeds cause the farmers of this country an annual loss of \$300,000,000. These estimates were made when conditions were normal. Increased planting due to abnormal conditions will greatly increase the number of breeding places and the supply of food for insects. This artificial advantage, coupled with the fact that insects reproduce much more rapidly than their natural enemies, makes the danger of insect plagues and resulting large crop losses this coming season imminent. Weeds also will do much greater damage under the new conditions. Everything possible should be done to protect and increase the natural enemies of destructive insects and noxious weeds.

## Economic Value of Birds

By far the most effective checks on the insect and weed hosts are the birds. It is their service to agricultural interests which makes birds of vast economic importance to man. Thousands of birds have been sacrificed on the altars of science by the United States Government to examine the contents of their stomachs and determine their usefulness and harmfulness, the findings being supplemented by observations in the field. That bird which tips the balance the wrong way is the rare exception.

Professor E. D. Sanderson has estimated that the chickadee destroys annually in the State of Michigan about 8,000,000,000 insects; Dr. Sylvester Dwight Judd has estimated that the bob-white in Virginia and North Carolina eats 340 tons of insects during June and July; a Nebraska naturalist has estimated that birds in his state consume 170 carloads of insects per day; and Professor Samuel Aughey estimated that eastern Nebraska nestlings, during the Rocky Mountain locust outbreak in 1874-77, daily ate locusts which, if allowed to live, would have been able to destroy crops in one seven hour day valued at \$1,743.97. It has been estimated that birds on farms in the eastern United States destroy during the summer season ten million million insects.

Seeds form the only food of many birds from the closing of the growing season to the opening of spring. One of the very best authorities, Dr. Frank M. Chapman, says the good birds do for agriculture by eating seeds of noxious weeds cannot be overestimated. The late Professor F. E. L. Beal, of the Bureau of Biological Survey, estimated that the tree sparrow destroys no less than 875 tons of weed seed each year in the single State of Iowa. Dr. Sylvester Dwight Judd has estimated that the bob-white, in Virginia and North Carolina, eats 1341 tons of weed seed in eight months. Native sparrows destroy, sometimes in two months, ninety per cent of the seeds of pigeon grass and ragweed—and what a time man has with the remaining ten per cent.

## The Cat and the Bird

Cats are most destructive of bird life during the nights and the early mornings of the nesting season. The mother bird and young asleep in the nest are easy prey for prowling cats. Young birds, weak of wing and void of fear, are caught



The vagabond cat or the barn cat, half-fed or forced to get its own living, becomes a scourge to bird life. Many house cats having once tasted birds or game seem to prefer such food. (Photograph by William L. Finley. Printed by permission of Edward Howe Forbush.)

## A Patriotic Appeal to You

### To Control Cats and Help Save Birds and Food

Dear Friends:

This circular tells you what we did in Maywood and what we desire to do. We wish to write a cat licensing ordinance on our village books. You will wish to do the same thing in your village or city. Study the cat problem. When you arrive at a conclusion—which is bound to be that reached by the Maywood Bird Club—ACT. Help arouse public opinion by securing the passage of local ordinances based on the public nuisance law. DO IT NOW. Let those who represent you in the next session of the legislature know your wishes as individuals and organizations. When the statute is amended permitting the taxing of cats, immediately substitute a licensing ordinance for that based on the public nuisance law.

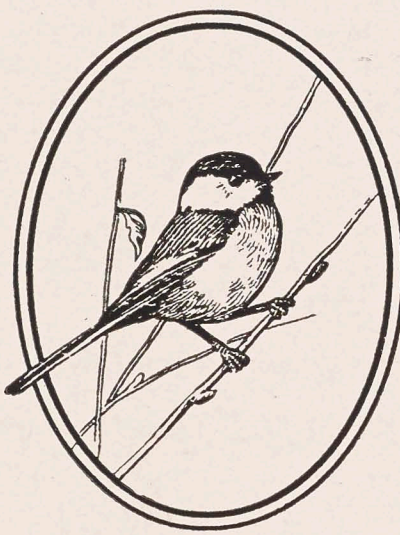
The man who has done more for bird conservation than any other man says every person in this country should do his part toward conserving the economically and esthetically valuable bird life of America and that the average person can best do his part by supporting organizations actively engaged in that work. That is why the Maywood Bird Club is a Contributing Member of the Illinois Audubon Society. Individuals and organizations, from one end of the state to the other, will help greatly in this conservation work in Illinois by giving their moral and financial support to the Illinois Audubon Society.

THIS IS WAR WORK. Birds are the greatest food conservationists on the earth. Cats are the greatest animal enemies of bird life. Protect the birds by curbing the cat menace and thus help greatly to conserve food, an important factor in winning the war for democracy and adjusting the food problem after the war. Cooperation will bring results. Report action or contemplated action to the Illinois Audubon Society.

Sincerely yours,

MAYWOOD BIRD CLUB.

April, 1918.



without difficulty. Adult birds are taken from their roosts at night and stalked in the daytime.

The story of the cat and the bird is most convincingly told in figures by Mr. Gilbert H. Trafton in his book, *Bird Friends*. His calculations are based upon the 1910 census and an investigation reported by Mr. Edward Howe Forbush, State Ornithologist of Massachusetts, in a bulletin entitled, *The Domestic Cat*. Although it is conservative to state that cats average to kill 50 birds each per year in good hunting grounds, Mr. Trafton, to be conservative beyond question, estimates that cats on farms average 10 birds each, and cats in towns and smaller cities where birds are found quite commonly average 5 birds each per year. East of the Mississippi River there are 3,800,000 farms, averaging 2 cats each. These 7,600,000 cats, averaging 10 birds, destroy annually 76,000,000 birds. There are 4,700,000 families living in the towns and smaller cities above mentioned. Assuming the Massachusetts average of 1 cat per family to hold generally, we have 4,700,000 cats destroying 5 birds each, or a total of 23,500,000. The farm and town cats east of the Mississippi River thus destroy annually 99,500,000 birds. John Burroughs is of the opinion that cats destroy more birds probably than all other animals combined. Dr. Frank M. Chapman, of the American Museum of Natural History, New York, says there are not less than 25,000,000, more probably 50,000,000, cats in the United States.

The above estimates are based upon 12,300,000 cats. Upon the same basis, 25,000,000 cats, Dr. Chapman's minimum estimate, destroy annually in the entire United States 202,235,772 birds. The Government places the value of seed-eating birds to the farmer at \$1 each per year. Insect-eating birds are worth at least that much. Assuming that these birds, upon which cats prey, are worth only 50c each per year to the farm interests of this country, it is not difficult to believe that the removal of the cat menace to bird life might mean a saving in food of \$101,117,886.

The statistics given will make the uninitiated "doubt truth to be a liar." They are, however, based upon the authentic reports of the Bureaus of Biological Survey and of Statistics of the United States Department of Agriculture, the census figures, the investigation of the State Ornithologist of Massachusetts, and the most expert judgment in America.

## CONTROL OF THE CAT

What shall we do about the cat, annihilate it? No. Control it.

As a pet, the cat may be an agent for the transmission of contagious diseases. As a house or stray cat, it is very apt

## MAYWOOD CAT ORDINANCE

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF MAYWOOD, AS FOLLOWS: Sec. 1. THAT WHEREAS stray and unrestrained cats wandering about the Village of Maywood have become a menace to the public health and a source of damage to gardens, and have been and are destroying large numbers of birds living and nesting within the limits of the Village, therefore the permitting or keeping of any stray or unrestrained cats within the limits of the Village of Maywood, contrary to the terms of this ordinance, is hereby declared to be a nuisance and any such cats shall be dealt with as hereinafter provided, and the owners and keepers thereof shall be subject to the fines hereby imposed for any violation of this ordinance.

Sec. 2. STRAY CAT. The term stray cat, as used in this ordinance shall be held and construed to mean any cat within the limits of the Village of Maywood and not on the premises of the owner or keeper thereof.

Sec. 3. UNRESTRAINED CAT. The term, unrestrained cat, as used in this ordinance shall be held and construed to mean any cat not controlled or kept in proper confinement by the owner or keeper thereof as hereinafter provided.

Sec. 4. CONTROL AND RESTRAINT OF CATS. No person shall cause or permit any cat or cats owned or kept by him or her to run at large on any street, alley or other public place, or upon the premises of any other person, within the Village of Maywood between the hours of 7 P. M. and 9 A. M. of each and every day during the breeding season of the birds, to-wit: from April 1 to September 30, both inclusive, of each and every year.

Sec. 5. POLICE CONTROL. It shall be the duty of the Village Marshal, his assistants, and all policemen of the Village to warn any owner or keeper of any cat who violates any of the provisions of this ordinance that upon a second violation the cat will be killed, and if after such warning any such owner or keeper again violates the provisions hereof by neglecting to restrain his cat as herein provided, such cat shall be forthwith killed by such officer in some humane manner.

Sec. 6. TRESPASS. All persons shall have the right to kill any and all stray or unrestrained cats trespassing upon their premises at any and all times, and the owners or keepers of such cats so killed shall have no right of redress therefor.

Sec. 7. PENALTIES. Any person violating any of the provisions of this ordinance shall be subject to have his or her cat taken up and killed as herein provided, and shall also be subject to a fine of not less than \$2.00 or more than \$5.00 for each violation of this ordinance.

Passed June 14th, 1917.  
Approved: Henry W. Tolsted, President.  
Attsted, June 14.

Edw. J. Thelin, Village Clerk.

to be a menace to economically and esthetically valuable bird life. During times of contagious disease and during the time birds are nesting, cats should be confined. One way is to tether them to overhead wires, which give them limited areas of activity. Another way that has proved satisfactory is to inclose spaces under porches with netting of some sort, as large cages in which the family cats are confined during certain parts of the day, especially at night and during the early morning hours. A Vermont woman writes in *Bird-Lore*, "We have solved the question of how to control our family cat. His days are spent under the south piazza, where he sits contentedly looking out through the netting in front, or curls up in a box in a shady corner. After the birds are quiet for the night he is released. The good supper that awaits him at nine o'clock never fails to bring him to the door, where he is captured and safely shut up for the night." Pet cats whether confined or not should be well fed so that appetite will not prick their instinct to kill.

Birds are of far greater value than cats. The rights of persons who try to encourage birds to nest on their premises must be respected. It is no more right that people should allow cats to trespass on their neighbors' premises, destroying birds, than it is that they should allow their cows, geese, and chickens to overrun the lawns and gardens of the neighborhood. It is practically impossible to train cats not to kill birds. Belling cats is futile. Young birds in the nest cannot escape and young birds just out of the nest have not learned the meaning of noises. A cat stalking adult birds is so careful in its movements that it would not jingle a bell until in the act of springing, when a noise of any proportion whatever might be too late as a warning to the victim. Then, too, if a bell is likely to warn a bird of an approaching cat, it is not as likely to warn a mouse or a rat and thus destroy the claimed usefulness of the cat?

Clipping cats' claws is ineffective. It has no effect upon cat nature and does not protect birds that nest in low bushes and on the ground or young birds that have flown to the ground from their nests in tree tops.

Cats should be licensed. Dogs are much more faithful than cats to their masters. They do not carry disease and filth on their feet and claws and in their fur to anywhere near the extent cats do. Why compel licensing of dogs and not of cats? Cat licenses would be doubly beneficial; pet cats would be better cared for, and stray cats would be reduced to a minimum. This would be a kindness to both and a blessing to man. Stray cats live wretched, half starved lives during the winter months. In one year, the New York City Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals killed 303,949 sick, injured, and homeless cats. There is no room anywhere for vagabond cats. The license fee need not be large, its chief purpose being to tag cats valued by somebody so that the proper village authorities may know what cats are homeless, and also to pay a fee to some appointed person to shoot stray cats, or trap them and kill them in some humane way. Such measures would cause a marked reduction in the number of cats and a corresponding increase in the number of birds nesting and singing about us. Great material and spiritual good would result therefrom.

## MONTCLAIR CAT ORDINANCE

An Ordinance to Prevent Vagrant or Unidentified Cats from running at large in the Streets or Public Places of the Town of Montclair in the County of Essex, and for the impounding, Sale or Destruction of such cats.

BE IT ORDAINED BY the Town Council of the Town of Montclair in the County of Essex, as follows:

Section 1. No person being the owner or harboring a cat shall permit it to run at large in any of the streets or public places of the town of Montclair in the County of Essex at any time, unless identified as hereinafter provided.

Section 2. Any cat shall be deemed to be a vagrant or unidentified cat unless it wears a collar or tag bearing either the owner's name and address, or a registered identification number.

Section 3. Numbered identification tags will be furnished by the Town Clerk at cost.

Section 4. Any vagrant or unidentified cat running at large in any of the streets or public places of the town of Montclair in the County of Essex, shall be taken and impounded by any dog-catcher of said town, (or other duly authorized officer,) and shall be destroyed or sold at any time not less than forty-eight hours after it has been impounded, unless the owner shall, before its destruction or sale, satisfy the Town Clerk of his or her ownership and shall redeem the same by the payment to the Town Clerk for the use of the said town, the sum of One dollar; provided, however, that such redemption and payment shall not release or discharge the owner from the penalty hereinafter provided for.

Section 5. Any cat wearing a collar or tag bearing either the owner's name and address or a registered identification number, that may be captured by the dog-catcher or other officer of the town in the discharge of his duty, shall be released or returned to the owner. The compensation of the dog-catcher shall be the sum of one dollar for each cat lawfully seized and impounded in the performance of his or their duty.

Section 6. Any person violating the provisions of this ordinance shall, upon conviction, pay a fine of not more than Five dollars for each and every offense.

Adopted July 6th, 1915.

EDWIN MORTIMER HARRISON,

Attest:

HARRY TRIPPETT,

Town Clerk.

Montclair, N. J.

7-8-1t (\$6.00)

## THE LAW

Licensing Cats  
Not Permitted in Illinois

Article V, paragraph 62, item the eightieth, page 308, The Revised Statutes of the State of Illinois, 1915-1916, Harvey B. Hurd, reads:

"The city council in cities, and the president and the board of trustees in villages, shall have the following powers:

"Eightieth. To regulate, restrain and prohibit the running at large of horses, cattle, swine, sheep, goats, geese and dogs, and to impose a tax on dogs."

The licensing of cats is one of the most effective means of controlling them. If the next General Assembly is unwilling to give us a state law compelling the licensing of cats, let us do all we can to let our state legislators know that public opinion desires the eightieth item, as above quoted, amended to read:

"Eightieth. To regulate, restrain and prohibit the running at large of horses, cattle, swine, sheep, goats, geese, dogs and cats, and to impose a tax on dogs and cats."

## CAT ORDINANCE PROVISIONS

Every cat ordinance should provide for the extermination of stray and unrestrained cats.

Designated persons or officers should be authorized or required to collect and dispose of such cats.

Cat traps, the most effective means of catching cats, should be provided.

Provision should be made for the collection and humane killing of superfluous kittens.

Provision should be made for the humane killing of cats, as it has been in the case of impounded dogs.

Provision should be made for keeping record of all male and female cats and kittens disposed of. This information is valuable. Report to your state Audubon Society or the National Association of Audubon Societies.

A licensing law is the most effective means of solving the cat problem.

Male cats should be taxed at least one dollar and female cats at least three dollars each. If a cat is worth anything, it is worth one dollar a year. The higher tax on the female will help keep the cat population at a minimum. Gelded toms make the most harmless pets.

All licensed cats should be recorded and tagged with an identification tag. If the inutilty of cats is admitted, it might be well to tag cats with bells bearing identification numbers. Owners of cats should be obliged to apply to the town clerk for tags once a year.

All cats not bearing license tags should be designated stray and unrestrained cats, and treated accordingly.

Cats should be tethered or confined from late afternoon to late morning during the bird nesting season, that is, from about April 1 to October 1.

Licensed cats running at large during prohibited hours should be seized and held, the owners notified, and the cats disposed of as stray cats if the owners fail within a specified time to claim the cats and pay a stipulated ransom.

All adult persons should have the right to kill any and all cats, licensed or stray, trespassing upon their premises, at any and all times, and the owners or keepers of such cats so killed should have no right of redress therefor.

A money penalty in addition to ransom should be imposed for violations of cat ordinances.

A special officer, whose duty is to keep informed on the number of cats and to execute the cat ordinance, should be appointed and paid for his services from the fees collected under the cat ordinance.

It should be made unlawful to drop or abandon kittens or cats.

## THIS AND THAT ABOUT THE CAT

This propaganda is not directed against properly cared for pet cats—in fact, its culmination would be a great benefit to such cats.

The world war has turned the attention of Americans to intensive gardening. War gardens are being cultivated on every available plot of ground. As to cats and gardens, Mr. Orpheus M. Schantz, President of the Illinois Audubon Society, says, "My experience is that cats use gardens not only as covers from which to attack birds but also as places in which to lie and sleep. Cats are very prone to roll and scratch in any loose soil, often uncovering seeds or destroying young plants. They also fight viciously frequently causing much damage to vegetables and flowers. For these reasons, cats are a menace to home gardens."

The night yowling of cats is demoralizing and disturbing.

Many men, women, and children are suffering from want of food as a result of the barbarous war which has been inflicted upon the world. Cats consume much milk and meat food. Ponder this situation.

Birds are the defenders of our crops against devastation by insect pests; they are the guardians of our crops against destruction by the encroachment of noxious weeds. Cats are ravagers of bird life; they are much less efficient as mousers and raters than hawks and owls and ferrets and dogs. Indifference or irrational sentiment helps the cat extend and increase its destructiveness.

Authorities do not place a high value on cats as effective destroyers of mice and rats, generally speaking, stating that traps and poisons are more effective.

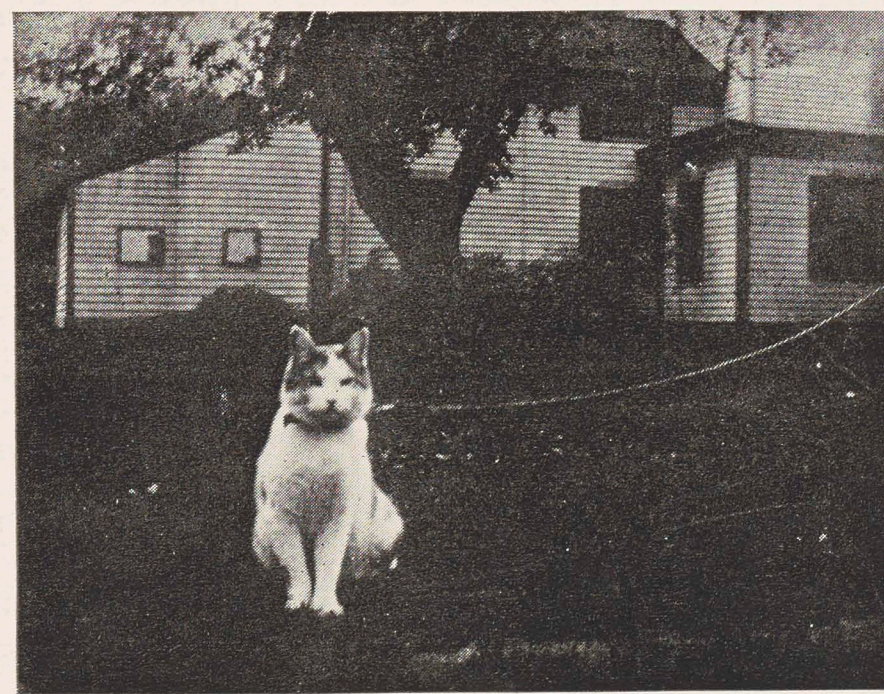
Stray and feral cats destroy large numbers of game birds, from bobwhites and snipe to grouse and wild ducks. They kill adult and young birds and break unhatched eggs or leave them to spoil.

Hunters should be reminded that they will perform great conservation service if they shoot stray and feral cats.

There is no logic or reason in passing laws to punish boys for killing birds and allowing their parents to keep with impunity cats which kill hundreds of birds in their lifetimes.

The cat is an exotic. It does not belong to nature's scheme of things in America. It was introduced by man and has been bred, protected, and carried to every part of America by man. The neglected or deserted cat is not in its natural environment in this country and should therefore be removed. By virtue of man's thoughtless meddlesomeness, the stray and unrestrained cat has become the most numerous and most destructive enemy of bird life, excepting only the weather at times and man himself.

Doing your bit means doing your every bit. The cat problem affords you another opportunity to add to your effectiveness as a power against hun rule. Your burdens will be lightened if you take advantage of this opportunity right away to eliminate the stray and unrestrained cat.



This great cat, owned by Mr. Bardwell Gladwin of Plainville, Conn., is kept tethered to an overhead wire. He has been tied every summer, and seems to consider the collar and leash as a high honor. (Photograph by courtesy of Mrs. Louise G. Lusk. Printed by permission of Edward Howe Forbush.)

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FOR THE CONSERVATION OF BIRD LIFE

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Orpheus M. Schantz, President, 1649 Otis Building, Chicago, Illinois

PROTECT THE BIRDS

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CONSERVE FOOD